

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

# Barcia Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-1777 • Fax: 517-373-5871  
E-mail: [senjbarcia@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senjbarcia@senate.michigan.gov) • [www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD31](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD31)



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CONTACT: Sen. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City)  
(517) 373-1777

## **BARCIA URGES CONGRESS TO FOLLOW MICHIGAN'S LEAD ON BEACH MAINTENANCE**

(LANSING)—State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 26 today to memorialize the United States Congress to adopt federal guidelines similar to 2003 PA 14 (Enrolled House Bill No. 4257) which permits beach grooming on private property. PA 14 was signed by Governor Granholm on June 4 after weeks of intense negotiations between private property owners and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) produced a compromise bill on the contentious issue of beach maintenance.

“While enacting beach maintenance legislation in Michigan is a significant achievement, this fight is only half over. Congress and the Army Corps of Engineers need to understand that this is an issue they must address to bring state and federal regulations in line,” said Barcia.

“The compromise achieved last week demonstrates the shared commitment private and public interests have in maintaining Michigan’s beaches and natural resources.”

Despite recent actions that have streamlined the federal permitting process for beach grooming activities, the Army Corps of Engineers has not indicated they will adopt the new

Michigan guidelines. Senator Barcia's resolution urges the Army Corps of Engineers to work cooperatively with property owners on the stewardship of beaches.

"It would be refreshing to see the Army Corps of Engineers work with property owners in the same good faith manner as that of the DEQ and its Director, Steve Chester," said Barcia.

"This resolution demonstrates the clear will of the State of Michigan to see this issue addressed at the federal level in a manner that respects both private property rights and environmental considerations."

Senator Barcia's resolution was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs where it will be considered before being sent to the full Senate for passage.

State Senator Jim Barcia represents the 31<sup>st</sup> Senate District, which includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he serves as Vice-Chair of the subcommittees on Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Transportation.

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